

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/755,378

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Applicant(s)

THORNTON ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 10/31/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20,22-52,54-95,97-128 and 130-132 and renumbered as 1-24,26-128 and 25 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ANNAN Q. SHANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Mark S. Williams (Reg. No. 50,658) on 12/05/05.

In claim 130, line 1, "claim 129" has been deleted and replaced by "--claim 98--."

In claim 130, line 2, "the at least" has been deleted and replaced by "at least."

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20, 22-52, 54-95, 97-128 and 130-132 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with respect to independent claims 1, 26, 55, 56, 66, 72 and 98, the instant invention is directed to a computer network comprising a plurality of nodes each coupled to a data terminal equipment (DTE) comprising a computing system and a remotely located human interface. The relevant prior arts of records, such as **Humpleman et al (6,603,488)** browser based command and control home network where a single control device control a plurality of different devices without requiring any change in the mode of operation of the control device. **Petler (6,081,519)** discloses in-home communication system. **Rubinstain et al (6,088,368)** disclose Ethernet transport facility over digital

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subscriber lines. **Fujita et al (5,500,794)** disclose distribution system and method for menu-driven user interface. However neither **Humpleman, Petler, Rubinstain** nor **Fujita**, and any of the cited references teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the feature of “where the second interface device is not operable to execute application software,” and “where the computing systems of the DTE devices are commonly located at the first location” as recited in the instant invention in combination with other features with respect to independent claims 1, 26, 55, 56, 66, 72 and 98.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Humpleman et al (2005/0010866) disclose method and apparatus for a home network auto-tree builder.

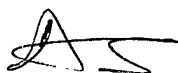
Gorman (6,141,356) discloses system and method for distributing voice and data information over wireless and wireline networks.

Hylton et al (5,708,961) discloses wireless on-premises video distribution using digital multiplexing.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



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